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PRESENT APPLICATION

1

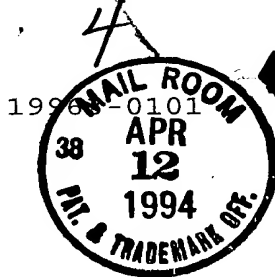
WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY
METHOD AND SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to the broad field of
wireless communication systems and, more particularly, to
a wireless communications method and system that provides
easily reprogrammable privacy in wireless communications.

DAL01:1753

2



BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Acceptable privacy systems for wireless communications systems such as cordless and cellular telephones have in common some way of authenticating a mobile unit. Once authentication occurs, the mobile unit may communicate with a base station or another mobile unit. After authentication, however, no standard or easily adaptable method or system exists to ensure that wireless communications are private or secure. The ease with which a skilled person can intercept wireless communications establishes a need for privacy in these communications. Moreover, as cellular telephones become increasingly wide-spread, the need for privacy in these communications will surpass its current high level.

To implement known privacy schemes in wireless communications requires additional circuitry that increases the purchase price of these systems. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,153,919 to Reeds et al. (hereinafter Reeds) describes an authentication and data encryption/decryption technique that requires both additional circuitry and additional cellular telephone systems software reprogramming. This scheme substantially increases the cellular telephone unit purchase price for systems that use it. Competitive market forces, however, continue to require that the purchase price of cellular or cordless telephones and other wireless communication systems remain as low as possible.

Any system that protects wireless communications must also be flexible to combat creative attempts to violate or render ineffective the associated privacy scheme. A problem with systems similar to that of Reeds, to the contrary, is that the authentication and encryption circuitry has a high likelihood of becoming outmoded and its utility diminishing once its operation

becomes well-known. Furthermore, the combination of technology variances, jurisdictional variances, differing legal constraints on use of otherwise private information, and the various and ever changing legal tests and standards that provide privacy in electronic communications all require flexibility in any approach to making wireless communications private. Existing systems cannot respond to these differing circumstances. In fact, there does not exist a method and system that provides a flexible privacy scheme for wireless communications that is both economical to use and adaptable to existing and future wireless communications scenarios.

4

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention, accordingly, provides a wireless communications privacy method and system that overcomes or reduces disadvantages and limitations associated with existing methods and systems of making wireless communications private or secure.

One aspect of the invention, therefore, is a communications controller that provides private communication of communications signals such as voice, local area network, or signals over a wireless communications network. The controller includes a signal processing circuit for processing the communications signals to form processed communication signals and for enciphering the processed communications signals. Processing may include encoding, compression, forward error correction and channel equalization of the communication signals. For example, a base band chip such as the CT2 telephone control circuit having the name Am79C410 that Advanced Micro Devices of Sunnyvale, California produces (hereinafter generally called the "79C410") may perform the encoding and compression base band functions. A separate chip may perform the radio frequency (RF) function of channel equalization. A transceiver associates with the communications controller to transmit the enciphered and processed communication signals that the communication controller circuit produces.

A further aspect of the present invention is a system that includes the above communications controller at a first sending location such as a mobile unit and a chip communications controller at a receiving location that receives the enciphered and processed communications signals. The receiving communications controller circuit deciphers and processes the communications signals for completing the wireless transmission. At the second

5

communications controller, processing includes decoding, decompressing, forward error correction and channel equalization, if necessary. Again, this may entail the use of a base band chip for some functions and a radio function chip for other RF functions.

The present invention may be employed in the communications controller circuit of a cordless telephone such as AM 79C410. Additionally, other wireless communication circuits could incorporate signal processing such as that of the present invention for communications signal processing and enciphering to provide the desired private communications over a wireless network. Such signals may include a wide variety of data types including, for example, an arbitrary data stream over a wireless local area network, or any of a number of wide area network schemes.

A technical advantage of the present invention is that it more completely uses computational power that may be available at prescribed clock rates for cordless telephone and other wireless applications. For example, the 79C410, while in use, has computational power at its operating clock rate that permits implementing enciphering and deciphering algorithms to make voice communications private. The computations that take place providing this privacy do not, therefore, affect the proper operation of the 79C410 or other similar controller circuits.

Another technical advantage of the present invention is that it utilizes the signal processing circuit of a single chip wireless communications controller not only for processing functions such as communications signal compression, encoding, and radio channel equalization, but also for enciphering and deciphering the processed signals. In the manufacture of a communications controller circuit according to the present invention,

6

only a minimal amount of additional circuitry and instructions are necessary to accommodate a wide variety of enciphering algorithms. This provides privacy in wireless communications controller circuits at minimal additional manufacturing costs while providing a desirable degree of system flexibility.

Yet another technical advantage of the present invention is that it permits the manufacture of a "cryptographically neutral" device that may be enabled at an end point market. The controller circuit that the present invention employs allows embedding the enciphering and deciphering algorithms, as appropriate, for the particular legal or political jurisdiction in which a user seeks to use the communications device. This permits the purchaser or retailer to use the local definition of an acceptable or politically correct enciphering algorithm in the system with only a minimal amount of reprogramming.

Still a further technical advantage of the present invention is that it flexibly uses a wide array of enciphering and deciphering algorithms within the signal processing circuit both for authentication between two communicating units and for developing a session key that maintains private communications between the two locations.

An even further important technical advantage of the present invention is that it not only provides enciphering and deciphering for security purposes, but also provides at low cost flexible features such as compression and decompression of communication signals and forward error correction of these signals.



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other technical advantages of the present invention will become more readily understood when the invention is described in further detail below, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which like reference numerals represent like parts throughout and in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a system architecture for implementing the present embodiment;

FIGURE 2 provides a block diagram of a communications controller circuit usable in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 3 provides a block diagram of the ADPCM code and DTMF generator within the communications controller of the present FIGURE 2 embodiment;

FIGURE 4 provides a set of exemplary timing diagrams for the frame synchronizing signal, DSP operation, and communications signal encryption according to the present embodiment;

FIGURE 5 provides a flow chart of an exemplary authentication process according to the present embodiment; and

FIGURE 6 is a flow chart of a session key generation process according to the concepts of the preferred embodiment.

8

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENT

With reference to FIGURE 1, one embodiment of the present invention uses a communications controller circuit such as the Am79C410 that Advanced Micro Devices of Sunnyvale, California produces and that has the trademark name "CT2 PhoX™" controller for digital cordless telephones (hereinafter CT2 controller). With this device, FIGURE 1 shows a wireless communication system 10 that includes base station 12 and hand set 14. Base station 12 has as its communications controller circuit CT2 controller 16 that communicates through CT2 RF transceiver 18. Ringer 20 connects to CT2 controller 16 to notify the user of an incoming call. Audio input/output (I/O) connection 22 provides the user controller communications path. Auxiliary audio connection 24 allows for auxiliary audio communications to devices such as a facsimile or modem device. Communications line interface circuit 26 interfaces CT2 controller 16 with a hard-wire communications line, if desired. Keypad interface 28 permits control of base station 12 via keypad entry. ROM 30 and EEPROM 32 provide needed memory functions for CT2 controller 16. Through these components, base station 12 communicates with hand set 14. Hand set 14 also includes CT2 controller 34 that communicates through CT2 RF transceiver 36. Connections to controller 34 are similar to those of CT2 controller 16 and include microphone 38, earpiece 40, ringer 42, keypad 44, and memory devices such as EPROM 46 and ROM 48.

CT2 controllers 16 and 34 perform protocol functions, data formatting, audio processing and peripheral communications for a common air interface CT2 digital cordless telephone. It is within this digital cordless telephone environment of wireless communication system 10 that one embodiment of the present invention

9

operates to take advantage of the high integration and low power consumption that CT2 controllers 16 and 34 provide. Within a controller such as CT2 controllers 16 or 34, the present embodiment provides data enciphering and deciphering sufficient to make private the wireless communications between base station 12 and hand set 14.

An attractive feature of the present system is the high degree of privacy that results from minimal hardware and software changes to CT2 controllers 16 and 34. The exact amount of strength in the privacy function that the present embodiment obtains, however, is a function of a number of engineering variables. Adding more logic or program control and increasing data storage capacity over that of a standard 79C410 CT2 controller provides even stronger privacy. The present embodiment, however, provides an architecture that imposes privacy on the air link between hand set 14 and base station 12 and within an architecture achievable through software-only changes in communications controller 16 and 34. For the present embodiment, therefore, private communications functions are reprogrammable and may include authenticating in a challenge-response-authentication sequence and developing a session key during wireless communications.

To illustrate how the present embodiment achieves its desired results, reference is now made to the FIGURE 2 schematic block diagram of the circuitry within CT2 controller 16. In FIGURE 2, CT2 controller 16 includes CT2 functions circuit 50 that communicates with audio functions portion 52. Audio functions portion 52 includes ADPCM (i.e., the Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation technique of the CCITT G.721 international standard) codec and DTMF generator 54 that includes a digital signal processor (DSP) for performing, among other functions, enciphering and deciphering in carrying out various functional aspects of the present

embodiment. Formatted CT2 functions flow from audio functions portion 52 to multifunction pin multiplexing circuit 56 and system control functions circuit 58. Clock generator 60 provides necessary clock signals for power management of multifunction pin multiplexing circuit 56. The operation of circuitry that satisfy the structural and functional requirements of CT2 controller 16 in the present embodiment appears in the design specification for the 79C410 CT2 PhoX™ control circuit. This specification is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

The ADPCM codec and DTMF generator 54 can implement a variety of privacy functions on a programmably selective basis. The privacy functions may be, for example, existing enciphering algorithms such as, for example, the United Kingdom enciphering algorithm "F," that algorithm having the name "BONUS," or the "Data Enciphering Standard" or DES enciphering algorithm, as well as a wide array of other such algorithms that may not even exist today but that have common features with existing enciphering algorithms. The operation of the enciphering functions within ADPCM codec and DTMF generator 54 for purposes of the present embodiment appears more fully below in association with FIGURE 3 and 4.

The present embodiment modifies the CT2 PhoX™ control circuit to provide a way to load, store, and execute additional digital signal processing programs in audio functions circuit 52 that implements G.721 transcoding, DTMF tone generation, and other audio signal processing functions. A standard 79C410 DSP executes its instructions entirely from a read-only instruction memory or IROM. The present embodiment adapts the 79C410 circuit to form CT2 controller 16 by substituting a read-write instruction random access memory or IRAM of a size

suitable to allow it to perform any of the class of anticipated privacy functions.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/983,477 by B. Stewart and R. Feemster and assigned to Advanced Micro
5 Devices, Inc. of Sunnyvale, California (hereinafter Stewart) describes an execution vector sequence that applies to the 79C410 and describes certain aspects of the 79C410 architecture. For the purpose of more clearly illustrating the application of the present embodiment as
10 well as other relevant purposes, Stewart is incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, modifications that the present embodiment makes to the 79C410 include connecting XOR gate 66 to serial port 64 of system control functions portion 568. XOR gate 66 exclusively XORs the output of
15 serial port 64 with the FIFO shift output on line 68 that comes from FIFO shift circuitry 70. Audio functions portion 52 controls the operation of FIFO shift circuitry 70 via line 72 to control the output of XOR gate 66. As a result of the operation of XOR gate 66, output line 74
20 sends encrypted communication signals from CT2 controller 16.

When encrypted communication signals appear on input line 76, they go to XOR gate 78 as does the key string or pseudo random number generator signal from FIFO shift
25 circuitry 70 along line 68. Output from XOR gate 78 goes along line 80 to serial port 64. These are impressed upon on the communication signals that CT2 controller 16 decrypts.

To describe in yet more detail the structure and
30 function of the present embodiment, FIGURE 3 provides a block diagram of the circuitry of ADPCM codec and DTMF generator 54 hereinafter generator 54 of CT2 controller 16. Generator 54 receives analog input via input 90 to analog I/O circuit 92. Analog I/O circuit 92 also
35 outputs audibly via speaker 94. Communications signals

12

flow between DSP 96 and analog I/O circuit 92. DSP 96 has various connections with instruction read-only memory (IROM) 98, coefficient (CRAM) 100, and coefficient CROM 102. Frame lines 104 connect between DSP 96 and FMT 106. Line 108 also connects between frame lines 104 and shift register 110. Shift register 110 output 112 goes to XOR gate 114 as does output 116 from serial I/O circuit 118. Serial I/O circuit 118 provides output 116 in response to input from line 120 that connects to FMT 106. XOR gate 122 also provides to serial I/O circuit 118 input 124 which is the exclusivity-OR'd output of the signal from line 126 and serial data input 128. Microprocessor 130 receives DSP 96 output via line 132 and clock signal from clock circuit 134 via line 136. Output for microprocessor 130 through line 138 drives FMT 106. Clock circuit 134 provides multiple clocking signals such as those through lines 140 and 142.

For purposes of the present embodiment, digital signal processor (DSP) implementing the CCITT G.721 transcoder is modified from the specified 79C410 configuration by adding circuitry and instructions for the purpose of reading the frame counter of step 200. Additionally, a compliance code that the DSP contains is removed and a single enciphering algorithm is programmed in its place in DSP IROM 98 of FIGURE 3.

In the standard 79C410 manufacture, DSP 96 can only execute a single program stored in this IROM at time of manufacture. The present embodiment adds to IROM 98 a random access (read-write) memory, or IRAM 101. As a result, not only does the CT2 controller 16, and hence hand set 12, as a whole have a useful function independent of enciphering and deciphering the telecommunications data streams (it would still be a voice coder with G.721 compression stored in ROM), but also there are uses of the modifications that do not

relate only to enciphering or deciphering. IRAM 101 may receive code for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with G.721 voice compression standards. IRAM 101 may also serve in the functions of enciphering and
5 deciphering processed communication signals, forward error correction, and channel equalization if desired. The loading of IRAM 101 requires specially-designed software to accomplish the conversion of the device to a privacy function via the loading of IRAM 101. This
10 approach is satisfactory for some privacy requirements.

Yet another embodiment of the present invention removes the compliance code from the DSP and replaces the IROM space of the compliance code with the IRAM 101 as in the magneto-optic disk motion controller that is
15 described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial 08/100,152 assigned to Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., of Sunnyvale, California (hereinafter the "MOMC controller"). The MOMC controller includes a DSP device that has an instruction random access (read-write) memory
20 IRAM attached to a DSP that is similar in some respects to DSP 96 of FIGURE 3. Using the MOMC controller at manufacturing, a manufacturer may load the compliance code for testing, as appropriate. In the field, a user may load this same IRAM space with whatever algorithm
25 happened to be required or whatever may be politically correct at the moment to affect an appropriate enciphering scheme to achieve private wireless communications according to the present invention.

FIGURE 4 shows timing diagrams for frame
30 synchronizing or synch signal 150, DSP 96 processing signal 152 and enciphering/deciphering processing signal 154. The present embodiment causes DSP 96 to process voice signals according to the information in each frame of data from analog I/O circuit 92. Thus, at each frame
35 synch signal pulse such as those at reference numerals

156 and 158 of frame synchronizing signal timing diagram 150, DSP 96 processes one frame worth of analog input or output. Note that, according to timing diagrams 150 and 152, there is a time between frame synch signals 156 and 158 when DSP 96 is busy, as line level 160 indicates and a time when DSP 96 is idle, as level 162 indicates. The present embodiment uses this idle DSP 96 processing time to encipher or decipher the telecommunication signals. That is, the present embodiment uses DSP 96 to encipher and decipher the data stream of the telecommunications signal during the time that DSP 96 is not otherwise processing the communications signal.

As enciphering/deciphering timing diagram 154 illustrates, once DSP 96 discontinues processing the frame of communication signals and the processing activity ceases, DSP 96 processing timing diagram shifts from the busy level 160 to the idle level 162 and enciphering or deciphering of the frame of data, as appropriate, begins. Enciphering/deciphering timing diagram 154 indicates this change by shifting from idle level 164 to busy level 166. This continues until enciphering or deciphering is complete, as the shift from busy level 166 to idle level 164 shows. Note, however, that the shift from enciphering/deciphering busy level 166 to idle level 164 occurs before the next frame synch signal 158.

The enciphering and deciphering functions of the present embodiment may include both authentication and session key generation within CT2 controller 16 to make communications between hand set 14 and base station 12 private. The various steps that the inventive concepts encompass may be implemented in either software or hardware, or both hardware and software. FIGURE 5 illustrates conceptually one way to perform the authentication process 170 of the present invention.

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Line 172 represents the air interface between base station 12 and hand set 14. At base station 12, signal processing circuitry generates phone identifier 174 and random number 176, both of which CT2 controller 16
5 directs to privacy function 178. The combination of random number 176 and phone identifier 174 proceed through privacy function 178 that performs the enciphering to generate an expected response at step 180. Simultaneously, hand set 14 generates phone identifier
10 182 which has the same value or meaning as phone identifier 174 within base station 12. In hand set 14, privacy function 184 (which is the same privacy function that base station 12 employs) receives from base station 12 data that includes random number 176 and phone
15 identifier 182. Any one of a number of high-quality random number generators, based on key stroke timing or some other random variable, may be used to generate random number 176. The output of privacy function 184 goes to matching function 186 as does the expected
20 response from step 180. In CT2 controller 16, all calculations to implement authentication process 170 need not be performed in real time and, therefore, may be scheduled according to the available enciphering and deciphering windows the timing diagrams of FIGURE 4
25 indicate.

A strength of authentication process 170 is that phone identifiers 174 and 180 never appear over air interface 172. A sophisticated attacker of this system, however, may be able to mount a "known-plain text attack"
30 to determine the enciphering key if he had been monitoring the air interface and could reliably determine which of the several possible algorithms specified as privacy functions 178 and 182 were in use. With increased clock rates or different system operating
35 characteristics, however, this task becomes difficult.

16

Additionally, the present invention may use other enciphering algorithms that are more strongly resistant to this type of attack than are the F, BONUS, or DES enciphering algorithms of privacy functions 180 and 184.

5 As yet a further example of an encryption scheme that the present embodiment may employ, reference is made to U.S. Patent No. 4,405,829 filed on December 14, 1977 by Rivest et al. entitled "Cryptographic Communications System and Method" and assigned to the Massachusetts
10 Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts (hereinafter Rivest). Rivest describes a paired key encryption system where a decoding device and an encoding device is coupled to a communication channel. The encoding device is responsive to an applied message-to-
15 be-transmitted M and an encoding to provide a cipher text word C for transmission to a particular decoding device. The encoding key E is a pair of positive integers e and n which are related to the decoding device. The present embodiment may employ the techniques of Rivest. For this
20 purposes, as well as other purposes consistent with the scope of the present invention, Rivest is herein incorporated by reference.

FIGURE 6 shows private data stream generation process 190 of one embodiment of the present invention. Beginning at step 192, process 190 begins by generating a
25 phone identifier and, at step 194, an expected response. These two inputs go to privacy function 196 which may be an F, BONUS or DES algorithm or some other enciphering algorithm. From privacy function 196, a session key 198
30 results. The session key 198 combines with the output from counter function 200 that counts the elapsed CT2 frames in the secure or private mode. These two inputs then go to step 202 where any one of numerous different privacy functions may be employed to generate a "random"
35 bit stream as step 204 indicates. The result from the

17

random bit stream of step 204 is a programmable mask to select the encipherment of D and or B channel data at step 206. The programmable mask generates a masked random bit stream at step 208. The masked random bit stream of step 208 then flows through logical XOR circuit 210 with a clear data stream as line 212 indicates. The result is a private data stream that is communicated from either base station 12 through controller circuit 16 or hand set 14 through controller circuit 32. That is, session key generation process 190 may be performed at both base station 12 and hand set 14 to achieve two-way private wireless communications.

As FIGURE 6 describes, therefore, after authentication the system of the present embodiment provides various privacy functions 196 to recombine the session key of step 198 and the expected response data at step 194 to result in the random bit stream of step 204. The enciphering algorithm of privacy function 196 may be reapplied a number of times to yield a session key of the appropriate length. Once the session key is derived, privacy function 202 further enciphers the session key of step 198 with the counter data of step 200. Note that the present embodiment simultaneously derives the session key on both sides of the air interface 102, but the session key never itself appears on the air interface. The first application of the enciphering function at step 196 produces a session key as indicated by step 198. This step need not be performed in real time and, therefore, may be done in a general purpose microprocessor such as microprocessor 130 of FIGURE 3. The second enciphering function occurs in real time during the enciphering function busy level 166 of enciphering/deciphering timing diagram 154 of FIGURE 4. This process may be performed by adding to the CT2 controller 16, for example, both the logic to provide the

low-level bit modification and circuitry and instructions for implementing the enciphering function of step 202 real time.

5 The data flow of FIGURE 6 further shows combining clear data at clear data stream 212 with a pseudo-random bit stream 208 that masking step 206 generates. Pseudo-random bit stream 208 may be duplicated on the other side of air interface 172. XOR circuitry 210 assures that single-bit errors that occur on air interface 172 will not propagate beyond the frame location at which they occur and then go across air interface 172. Single-bit errors, therefore, will not affect the circuitry within communications controller 16 that already exists to deal with errors. Note, however, that the present inventive concepts are not confined to correcting for single-bit errors. The arbitrary privacy scheme of the present invention may use block encryption algorithms that communicate blocks, instead of streams, of data from one point to another. The DSP could then perform the desired forward error correction on the other side on the blocks of data.

15 The preferred embodiment of the present invention may be retrofitted economically and practically into an already manufactured CT2 controller. Required changes include, for example, adding a logic circuit that has FIFO shift circuit 70, XOR gate 66, XOR gate 76 and the above-mentioned memory circuits associated with audio functions portion 52, all of FIGURE 2. Additionally, the instructions to perform programmable mask step 206 and the XOR logic function to encipher or decipher the data stream may be added to generator 54 of FIGURE 3. Frame counter 106 of FIGURE 3 may be implemented in CT2 functions circuit 50, preferably within generator 54.

OPERATION

Although operation of the present embodiment is clear from the above description, the following description of the operation appears for completeness. CT2 controllers 16 and 34 can perform most privacy and authentication schemes of public-access cordless telephone in use at the present time throughout the world. Further, the programmability of the device now renders it generally useful for rather arbitrary privacy schemes and in other public access schemes. The following scheme, which is roughly descriptive of several standard schemes, provides an example of operation with the present embodiment.

The present embodiment, therefore, provides wireless communication privacy for cordless and cellular telephony and local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), and wireless data exchange. The method and system of the present embodiment authenticates a mobile unit such as hand set 14 and enciphers data in a control stream from the mobile unit to another mobile unit or to base station 12. By adding the XOR-based enciphering logic and the appropriate enciphering and deciphering algorithms in CT2 controller, the capability to support various privacy schemes results.

Similarly, a system of paired processors such as CT2 controllers 16 and 34, but implementing different data protocols and perhaps different functions than the G.721 speech compression, for example, lossless arbitrary-data compression may be implemented with the present embodiment. Such a system may be described for voice wireless link systems, where the data to be carried is not voice data but other arbitrary data streams. An example of comparison algorithms may be those which use a dictionary to store compression and decompression

information, such as the first and second methods of Lempel and Ziv, called LZ1 and LZ2, respectively. These methods are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,464,650 to Eastman et al., and various improvements in the algorithms as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,558,302 to Welch, 4,814,746 to Miller et al., and 5,243,341 to Serouss et al. The present embodiment may use some or all of these techniques. As necessary to understand their use and application to the present invention, therefore, the above U.S. Patents are herein incorporated by reference.

The present embodiment provides pair-key authentication scheme that occurs during call set-up and exchanges the session key for a keystream generation algorithm. The keystream generation algorithm processes the data being exchanged during the call. By operating in this mode, paired-key algorithms of rather arbitrary complexity can be executed by microprocessor 130 within generator 54, since the call set-up, authentication, billing information and session key exchange functions do not have to occur to generate a real-time keystream for impressing upon the voice data. A separate keystream generation algorithm, loaded into the IRAM, performs keystream generation in the idle time of the DSP after it processes each frame of G.721 speech compression. Keystream algorithms of greater complexity can be accommodated by choosing a suitable size of IRAM to hold the desired algorithm's instruction codes and by increasing the system clock speed to allow the keystream generation to complete in the idle time after the processing of each G.721 speech data frame. This is described in the example of FIGURE 4, above.

A further example operation may be seen in call-initiating and responding unit, each based on the modified 79C410 as described above, the following

sequence of events may occur to establish an authentic, private communications channel. At the initiation of the call, the initiating CT2 controller executes a microprocessor-based program to cause the generation of a call-setup message using the private portion of the paired key associated with the unit to be exchanged. After authentication by the responding CT2 controller unit, using the public portion of the paired key associated with the unit, a non-realtime private link for exchange of billing information and session key, or even optionally, the particular keystream generation algorithm, is established. The appropriate keystream algorithm is loaded into both the initiating and responding CT2 controller, and synchronous identical keystreams are generated for insertion and extraction of the data stream over a private air link. The result is the enciphering and deciphering of data between base station 12 and hand set 14 that makes communication between these points private.

In summary, therefore, the present embodiment provides a method and system for privately communicating over a wireless communication network that includes a communications controller that provides private communication of communications signals such as voice signals over a wireless communications network. The controller includes a signal processing circuit for processing the communications signals to form processed communication signals and for enciphering the processed communications signals. Processing may include encoding, compression, channel equalization, and forward error correction modulation of the communication signals. A transceiver associates with the communications controller to transmit the enciphered and processed communication signals that the communication controller circuit produces.

22

A further aspect of the present embodiment is a system that includes the above communications controller at a first sending location such as a mobile unit and a chip communications controller at a receiving location that receives the enciphered and processed communications signals. The receiving communications controller circuit deciphers and processes the communications signals for completing the wireless transmission. At the second communications controller, processing includes decoding, decompressing, and channel equalization, if necessary.

Although the invention has been described in detail in the foregoing for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose. For example, not only can a data stream of voice data from a voice-compression DSP have application in the present invention, but also an arbitrary data stream can be protected according to the inventive concepts presented herein.

Another alternative embodiment of the present invention may be to provide the above described point-to-point secure communications on insecure LANs. The present invention makes possible digital signature authentication and message encryption using either a single DSP or a single microprocessor, or using both a DSP and a microprocessor or even a separate security processing unit or a dedicated or small DSP to contain in hardware or software various encryption algorithms and the ability to execute instructions for performing such algorithms. To protect these algorithms and related encryption data, various physical schemes may be, for example, schemes that erase the encryption algorithms and data on any sign of tampering or reverse-engineering attempts. These schemes are well-known in the prior art. Various other protection schemes that prevent chip-probing equipment from accessing information from the

processor directly may also be used. Therefore, variations may be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention except as may be limited by the claims.